

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 SS-20 SSO-00 ISO-00 /023 R

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 741

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV, MAY 17

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

1. NONE OF OUR TRAVELERS APPEARED ON TV THURSDAY EVENING. MA'ALOT FUNERALS AND ISRAELI RETALIATORY RAIDS WERE FEATURED PROMINENTLY BUT WERE COVERED BY BEIRUT AND TEL AVIV BASED REPORTERS.

2. ONLY KALB MADE THE FRIDAY MORNING PROGRAMS. FIRST TWO OF HIS PIECES WERE ON RADIO, THIRD ON TV.

(A) KISSINGER REBUKED ISRAEL TODAY FROM LAUNCHING REPRISAL RAIDS AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON AND PRESIDENT NIXON SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING HIS SORROW AT THE FRESH LOSS OF HUMAN LIFE. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT KISSINGER'S REBUKE IS COMPARATIVELY MILD CONSIDERING HIS SHARP CONDEMNATION OF THE ARAB TERRORIST ATTACK AT MA'ALOT ON WEDNESDAY. KISSINGER UNDERSTANDS THAT THAT ATTACK TRIGGERED THE ISRAELI REPRISALS. BUT THE SECRETARY STRESSED THAT THE US IS CONCERNED ABOUT THIS NEW CYCLE OF VIOLENCE WHICH IN HIS WORDS "UNDERMINES THE SEARCH FOR
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PEACE."

IT IS CLEAR FROM THE REACTION OF ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS THAT ANY STRONGER STATEMENT ON THE SECRETARY'S PART MIGHT HAVE SHATTERED HIS CHANCES OF INDUCING MORE DIPLOMATIC FLEXIBILITY OUT OF PM MEIR, IF SUCH CHANCES EXIST AT ALL. KISSINGER IS CONFERRING WITH HER AND OTHER TOP ISRAELI OFFICIALS ALL DAY. HE IS RETURNING TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW, ONE MORE SHUTTLE IN A LAST-DITCH EFFORT TO BREAK WHAT ONE AMERICAN OFFICIAL CALLED "THE TRAGIC IMPASSE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES."

(B) KISSINGER THIS MORNING ISSUED A COMPARATIVELY MILD STATEMENT REBUKING ISRAEL FOR LAUNCHING REPRISAL RAIDS AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON. A STRONGER STATEMENT MIGHT HAVE SHATTERED HIS HOPES OF PERSUADING THE ISRAELIS TO MAKE ONE FINAL CONCESSION ON THE SECRETARY'S EFFORT TO ARRANGE A DISENGAGEMENT DEAL BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL, THAT CONCESSION WOULD BE AGREEING TO YIELD CONTROL OF THE PEAKS OF THREE STRATEGIC HILLS ON THE GOLAN FRONT TO A UN FORCE. SYRIA WANTS CONTROL OF THOSE PEAKS BUT MIGHT SETTLE FOR THE UN AS LONG AS ISRAEL GIVES THEM UP. ISRAEL IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE MA'ALOT MASSACRE IS ANGRY AND IN NO MOOD TO MAKE FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO SYRIA, ONE ARAB NATION WHICH HARBORS AND EVEN ENCOURAGES ARAB EXTREMISM.

THE NEGOTIATION IS NOW AT THE CRITICAL POINT WHERE KISSINGER IS PROPOSING HIS OWN IDEAS TO BRIDGE THE REMAINING GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. NO COMPLETE AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE THIS WEEKEND; HOWEVER, IF KISSINGER SEES HOPE FOR A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, HE MAY EXTEND HIS STAY IN THIS AREA IN HIS OWN DOGGED EFFORT TO ACHIEVE IT. HE IS CONFERRING WITH TOP ISRAELI LEADERS ALL DAY. HE RETURNS TO DAMASCUS TOMORROW. THE SHUTTLE GOES ON.

(C) KISSINGER DIDN'T GET TO HIS HOTEL ROOM UNTIL 3:30 IN THE MORNING, JERUSALEM TIME; BUT HE WAS UP EARLY AND IN CONFERENCE WITH PM GOLDA MEIR TRYING TO BRIDGE THE REMAINING GAP BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL ON AN AGREEMENT TO DISENGAGE THEIR FORCES FROM THE GOLAN FRONT. HIS EFFORT HAS

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BEEN SEVERELY COMPLICATED BY THE MA'ALOT MASSACRE AND ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS AGAINST PALESTINIAN CAMPS IN LEBANON. IT IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED POSSIBLE THAT THE SECRETARY CAN ACHIEVE A COMPLETE AGREEMENT THIS WEEKEND. HE IS NOW STRIVING TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK ON ONE KEY ISSUE BEFORE HE LEAVES THIS AREA, AND THAT IS WHERE TO DRAW THE DISENGAGEMENT LINE. KISSINGER IS NOW SUGGESTING NEW APPROACHES OR AMERICAN IDEAS ON HOW TO DO IT. ONE SUCH IDEA IS BE-

LIEVED TO BE PLACING UN FORCES ON THE PEAKS OF THREE STRA-
TEGIC HILLS OVERLOOKING KUNEITRA. THE ISRAELIS NOW CONTROL
THOSE HILLS AND ESPECIALLY IN THE AFTERMATH OF MA'ALOT
DON'T WANT TO GIVE THEM UP. RUSH

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